



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

SOS-UK FOOD & FARMING NETWORK 2021-22

Background

Since 2017 SOS-UK's Food and Farming team has supported over 65 enterprises to trade, together they have:

- Sold over £150,000 worth of sustainable food
- Diverted almost 11.5 tonnes of food from landfill
- Created, expanded or improved 58 food growing sites
- Enabled over 3100 young people to improve their employability skills, and
- Been supported by people volunteering over 37,000 hours of their time

With the enterprise programme funded by the National Lottery Community Fund coming to end in August 2021 there is a real opportunity to take the learnings from this and to generate a new, dynamic and progressive Food & Farming network.

SOS-UK Food and Farming network is...

This network will initially support students to build impactful sustainable food enterprises within a supportive community. We will provide opportunities to partner with other enterprises, hold networking events and share good practice through resources and case studies. We would like to develop a support framework and network for students, officers and staff from unions, colleges and universities to collaboratively tackle key issues related to sustainable food enterprises, other food related projects and campaigns, food growing and broader food system issues that impact campus life.

Benefits

- Being founding members of the 1st official SOS-UK Food and Farming network.
- 'Food and Farming network founding member' digital badge issued for all 2021-22 network members that can be used on websites, email signatures etc.
- Bespoke support for students and staff leading the enterprises.
- Helping to shape the programme in this pilot year to ensure it best suits the needs of the sector.
- Opportunities to have news items and best practice showcased in our food and farming newsletter, our SOS-UK newsletter, through articles on our website, and during the Food and Farming sessions of the SOS-UK Summit.

Support received for 1-year membership

- Monthly 121 support video calls for each enterprise to assist lead students and staff in development of their enterprise (and associated growing site if applicable), including setting strategic directions, overcoming challenges and scoping for upcoming opportunities. Our support is aimed at the student calendar and understands the needs of an educational setting.
- Up to 2 x free tickets for students and up to 1 x free ticket for a support staff member to the SOS-UK Summit, which for 2021-22 will be hosted online and will have at least 4 Food and Farming specific sessions.
- 1 x half day support networking session online in term 2, bringing together students and staff from all enterprises within this network to share and learn together.
- Peer to peer support - we have a great network of student led enterprises and can help support or facilitate online group calls, building of connections and linking up enterprises to encourage exchange visits.
- Ad hoc support - if you have queries at any point throughout the year or would like to suggest an idea for a support session, case study or news piece, we can be reached by email. We often share examples of best practice during our support calls.

Key Dates

- Launch: 11st October 2021
- Start of support calls: from 11st October 2021
- Student Sustainability Online Summit: 22nd & 23rd November
- Half day support session online: Tuesday 15th February

Costs

This network will be run via the SOS-UK Learning Academy, the cost to join will be £1260 +VAT for the pilot year of 2021-22. Some aspects of this programme could be delivered in person for an additional fee determined on a case by case basis.

Start date

11th October 2021, initial monthly phone calls can take place any time from this date until 31st July 2022.

Sign up

Please send a confirmation email to foodandfarming@sos-uk.org including a PO number (if needed) to sign up to the programme.